What is claimed is:

1. A method of controlling the power usage of a computer, comprising:

defining a schedule for implementing at least one power setting on a computer; and

enforcing the at least one power setting on the computer according to the schedule.

2. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 1, wherein the schedule includes a reoccurring time period.

3. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 1, wherein the schedule includes a specific calendar date.

4. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 1, wherein the schedule includes a time period occurring on a specific calendar date.

5. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 1, further including defining and enforcing the schedule for a plurality of power settings on the computer.

6. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 1, further including:

defining a second schedule for implementing at least one power setting on the computer, the second schedule being different from the first schedule; and

enforcing the at least one power setting on the computer according to the second schedule.

7. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 6, wherein the at least one power setting enforced according to the first schedule is different from the at least one power setting enforced according to the second schedule.

8. A method of controlling the power usage of a computer, comprising:

defining a schedule for implementing at least one reduced-power state on a computer; and

enforcing the at least one reduced-power state on the computer according to the schedule.

9. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 8, wherein the reduced power state is selected from the group consisting of: suspend, standby and hibernate.

10. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 8, further including:

defining a second schedule for implementing at least one reduced-power state on the computer; and

enforcing the at least one reduced-power state according to the second schedule.

11. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 10, wherein the reduced power state enforced according to the first schedule is different from the reduced power state enforced according to the second schedule.

12. A method of controlling the power usage of a computer, comprising:

receiving a power management profile at a computer from a source other than the computer, the power management profile including at least one power setting and a schedule for implementing the at least one power setting on the computer; and

enforcing the at least one power setting on the computer according to the schedule.

13. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 12, wherein the source is a second computer networked with the first computer.

14. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 12, wherein the source is a power control unit communicates with the computer.

15. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 12, wherein the schedule includes a reoccurring time period.

16. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 12, wherein the schedule includes a specific calendar date.

17. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 12, wherein the schedule includes a time period occurring on a specific calendar date.

18. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 12, wherein the power management profile includes a plurality of power settings to be implemented on the computer according to the schedule.

19. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 12,

wherein the power management profile includes a second schedule for implementing at least one power setting on the computer, the second schedule being different from the first schedule; and

further including enforcing the at least one power setting on the computer according to the second schedule.

20. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 19, wherein the at least one power setting enforced according to the first schedule is different from the at least one power setting enforced according to the second schedule.

21. A method of controlling the power usage of a computer, comprising:

receiving a power management profile at a computer from a source other than the computer, the power management profile including a reduced-power state and a schedule for implementing the reduced-power state; and

enforcing the reduced-power state according to the schedule.

22. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 21, wherein the source is a second computer networked with the first computer.

23. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 21, wherein the source is a power control unit communicating with the computer.

24. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 21, wherein the reduced power state is selected from the group consisting of: suspend, standby and hibernate.

25. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 21,

wherein the power management profile includes a second schedule for implementing a reduced-power state; and

further including enforcing the reduced-power state according to the second schedule.

26. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 25, wherein the reduced power state enforced according to the first schedule is different from the reduced power state enforced according to the second schedule.

27. A method of controlling the power usage of a computer, comprising:

defining a power management profile for a computer, the power management profile including at least one power setting and a schedule for implementing the at least one power setting on the computer; and

distributing the power management profile to the computer.

28. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 27, further including distributing the power management profile to the computer through a network of computers.

29. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 27, further including distributing the power management profile to the computer through a power control unit communicating with the computer.

30. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 27, wherein the schedule includes a reoccurring time period.

31. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 27, wherein the schedule includes a specific calendar date.

32. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 27, wherein the schedule includes a time period occurring on a specific calendar date.

33. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 27, wherein the power management profile includes a plurality of power settings to be implemented on the computer according to the schedule.

34. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 27, wherein the power management profile includes a second schedule for implementing at least one power setting on the computer, the second schedule being different from the first schedule.

35. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 34, wherein the at least one power setting to be implemented according to the first schedule is different from the at least one power setting to be implemented according to the second schedule.

36. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 27, further including:

defining a group of one or more computers; and

distributing the power management profile to each of the computers in the group.

37. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 36, further including:

defining a second group of one or more computers different from the first group of one or more computers;

defining a second power management profile, the power management profile including at least one power setting and a schedule for implementing the at least one power setting; and

distributing the second power management profile to each of the computers in the second group.

38. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 36, further including:

defining a second group of one or more computers different from the first group of computers;

defining a second power management profile, the power management profile including a reduced power state and a schedule for implementing the reduced power state; and

distributing the second power management profile to each of the computers in the second group.

39. A method of controlling the power usage of a computer, comprising:

defining a power management profile for a computer, the power management profile including a reduced power state and a schedule for implementing the reduced power state on the computer; and

distributing the power management profile to the computer.

40. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 39, further including distributing the power management profile to the computer through a network of computers.

41. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 39, further including distributing the power management profile to the computer through a power control unit communicating with the computer.

42. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 39, wherein the reduced power state is selected from the group consisting of: suspend, standby and hibernate.

43. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 39, wherein the power management profile includes a second schedule for implementing a reduced-power state.

44. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 43, wherein the reduced power state to be implemented according to the first schedule is different from the reduced power state to be implemented according to the second schedule.

45. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 39, further including:

defining a group of one or more computers; and

distributing the power management profile to each of the computers in the group.

46. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 39, further including:

defining a second group of one or more computers different from the one or more computers of the first group;

defining a second power management profile, the power management profile including a reduced power state and a schedule for implementing the reduced power state; and

distributing the second power management profile to each of the computers in the second group.

47. A method of determining power usage of a computer, comprising:

instructing a computer to monitor power usage information relating to power usage by the computer; and

instructing the computer to record the monitored power usage information.

48. The method of determining power usage of a computer recited in claim 47, wherein the power usage information includes each power state maintained by the computer and a time period during which the computer maintains each power state.

49. The method of determining power usage of a computer recited in claim 47, wherein the power usage information includes each power state maintained by the computer and a time duration for which the computer maintains each power state.

50. The method of determining power usage of a computer recited in claim 47, wherein the power usage information includes the actual amount of power consumed by the computer.

51. A method of determining power usage of a computer, comprising:

receiving at a computer from a source other than the computer instructions to monitor power usage information relating to power usage by the computer; and

providing the monitored power usage information to the source.

52. The method of determining power usage of a computer recited in claim 51, further including receiving at a computer from a source other than the computer instructions to record the monitored power usage information.

53. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 51, wherein the source is a second computer networked with the first computer.

54. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 51, wherein the source is a power control unit communicating with the computer.

55. The method of determining power usage of a computer recited in claim 51, wherein the power usage information includes each power state maintained by the computer and a time period during which the computer maintains each power state.

56. The method of determining power usage of a computer recited in claim 51, wherein the power usage information includes each power state maintained by the computer and a time duration for which the computer maintains each power state.

57. The method of determining power usage of a computer recited in claim 51, wherein the power usage information includes the actual amount of power consumed by the computer.

58. The method of determining power usage of a computer recited in claim 51, wherein the instructions further define when to provide the monitored power usage information to the source.

59. A method of determining power usage of a computer, comprising:

distributing to a computer instructions for the computer to monitor and transmit power usage information relating to power usage by the computer; and

receiving the monitored power usage information from the computer.

60. The method of determining power usage of a computer recited in claim 59, further including distributing to the computer instructions for the computer to record the monitored power usage information.

61. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 59, further including distributing the instructions to the computer through a network.

62. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 59, further including distributing the instructions to the computer through a power control unit communicating with the computer.

63. The method of determining power usage of a computer recited in claim 59, wherein the power usage information includes each power state maintained by the computer and a time period during which the computer maintains each power state.

64. The method of determining power usage of a computer recited in claim 59, wherein the power usage information includes each power state maintained by the computer and a time duration for which the computer maintains each power state.

65. The method of determining power usage of a computer recited in claim 59, wherein the power usage information includes the actual amount of power consumed by the computer.

66. The method of determining power usage of a computer recited in claim 59, wherein the instructions further define when the monitored power usage information should be transmitted.

67. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 59, further including:

defining a group of one or more computers; and

distributing the instructions to each of the computers in the group.

68. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 59, further including:

defining a second group of one or more computers different from the first group of one or more computers;

defining second instructions for a computer to monitor and transmit power usage information relating to power usage by the computer; and

distributing the second instructions to each of the computers in the second group.

69. The method of controlling the power usage of a computer recited in claim 68, wherein the first instructions are different from the second instructions.

70. The method of determining power usage of a computer recited in claim 69, wherein the second instructions further define when the monitored power usage information should be transmitted.